"TEMPLARY IS THE NEW TESTAMENT OF MASONRY"

TEMPLAR

A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Official publication of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templars
and The Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

ROBERT GARDINER WILSON, Jr.
Grand Commander

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Commandery Leadership

A reference to attendance records cards of the recent 146th Annual Conclave, and a comparison of these attendance figures with net membership gains or losses established by the 51 Commanderies in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, is significant.

Eight Commanderies had no representative,- officer, Past Commander or proxy, - at the 146th Annual Conclave. Of these eight, six were Commanderies which showed a net membership loss last year! They were Holy Sepulchre, Connecticut Valley, Woonsocket, Godfrey DeBouillon, Northampton and Cambridge.

Of the nine Commanderies which sent but one lone representative, six showed a net membership loss last year. They were Springfield, Bethany, Joseph Warren, Athol, Cyprus and St. Paul.

It is at the Annual Conclave each October that complete records are made by the retiring Commander, officers are elected for the current year, a budget is adopted, and plans are formulated for the coming twelve months under the newly elected Grand Commander. We count on the officers and Past Commanders of each constituent Commandery for inspired and effective leadership. Cooperation between officers and Sir Knights is essential for a successful year, and for sustained growth. But the Commander is the quarterback who calls the plays; he is the pilot at the rudder; he is the leader to show the way. Illness or business reasons may have prevented your personal attendance at the Annual Conclave of October 1949. But your Grand Commander earnestly pleads for militant, aggressive and active leadership of your local unit of Crusading Knights in Templary's 1950 Battle of the Bulge!

Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr.
Grand Commander.

Testimonial Dinner to Sir Knight Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr., Right Eminent Grand Commander, was held in the Dorothy Quincy Suite of the new John Hancock Building Wednesday evening, Nov. 2, 1949. 550 Sir Knights and Ladies were served a Tenderloin of Beef dinner by Seiler at 6:30 P.M. Following a presentation to the R.E. Grand Commander by Eminent Commander Herman C. McStay of Boston Commandery, and a most colorful address by the Grand Commander, adjournment was made to John Hancock Hall where Boston Commandery staged their 6th Annual Theatre Party. 1200 people witnessed Denman Thompson's 4-act play, "The Old Homestead," by the nationally known Swanzey N.H. players, with their own band and male quartet. Grand Commandery line officers were presented to the audience by Grand Commander Wilson. Sir Knight Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr., R.E.G.C., was Worshipful Master of Joseph Webb Lodge of Boston in 1927; Ex High Priest St.Paul's Chapter in 1933; Thrice Illustrious Master Boston Council in 1928; Em. Commander Boston Commandery K.T. 1939 & 1940;(if we had in this state a Masonic organization which is in existence in many other states, known as the "York Cross of Honor," he would certainly be entitled

to high honors in that body); Ill. Potentate Aleppo Temple Shrine 1940-41-42-43; Imp. Ass't Rabban, Shrine of North America 1949; he was knighted in Boston Commandery June 19, 1918; appointed Warder of Boston Commandery by his father Sir Knight Robert G. Wilson, Sr., who was Eminent Commander in 1931; Commander of Boston Commandery 1939 & 1940; appointed Warder of the 8th Division of the Grand Commandery by Grand Commander Arlan M. Spencer in 1941 and elected and installed Right Eminent Grand Commander October 26, 1949. Among the guests were the M.W. Grand Master of Masons in Mass., Roger Keith; the M.E.P.G.M. of the Grand Encampment K.T. of the U.S.A., Harry G. Pollard; Illustrious Frank B. Ells, Potentate of Aleppo Temple Shrine; Illustrious George E. Stringfellow of New Jersey, Imperial Outer Guard of the Shrine of North America; and Illustrious Claude M. Allen, 33° Deputy for Mass.in the Scottish Rite.

At the recent Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment in San Francisco, one of the Grand Commanderies proposed creating honorary titles of "Knight Commander of the Temple" and "Grand Cross of the Temple," -- these to be awarded to Sir Knights who render outstanding service to Templary. The awards would not be available to any one privileged to wear the Templar cross; this matter is in the hands of the Jurisprudence Committee to report at the next Triennial Conclave in 1952.

GLEANINGS FROM THE NOVEMBER COMMANDERY NOTICES:

St. Johns #1

"From the Commander" is an inspiring message to his Sir Knights.

Boston #2

Recounts the Testimonial Dinner to the R.E.G.C. Robert Gardiner Wilson, Jr.

Newburyport #3

Announces their Children's Christmas Party December 17th.

Worcester County #5

Were the guests of the Council on November 9th to witness "The House of Magic," an actual exhibition of electronic science.

DeMolay #7

Prints the names of "DeMolay Boosters," those who sponsor petitions for the Orders.

Holy Sepulchre #8

Sponsoring a Turkey Whist in Hutchison Hall December 9th.

Pilgrim #9

Children's Christmas Party scheduled for December 23rd - a Past Commanders' Night is listed for March 22nd.

Palestine #10

Has a full notice of events. Veterans' Night and Roll Call on November 9th. Presentation of T.S.Webb medals, also entertainment with professional talent.

Milford #11

"Norwood Night," held November 22nd. A team from Temple #48 put on the Red Cross. In December, a team from Bay State #38 will work the Order of Malta. Past Commanders' Night in January for the Order of the Temple.

Calvary #13

Lists the "Calvary Crusaders," who are the Membership Committee.

Haverhill #14

"No place to stop" is the subject of the Commander's message. This message could well be used by members of Membership Committees to sell Templary to Blue Lodge Brethren.

Sutton #16

Arranges to have your name etched on swords for $3.75.

Bethany #17

Held a "Bill" Redfern Night November 28th, honoring their Captain of the Guard, who is retiring from office after serving 33 years. Catered dinner (Bethany version) Order of Malta, followed by snappy talks and interesting movies.

Hugh de Payens #20

"Commentary by your Commander," is a detailed study of strength and weakness in Commandery life. It is a page full of real constructive informative matter for his members. Has had a great reaction among Commandery officers.

Berkshire #22

Open meeting Nov. 9th. Blue Lodge members invited. Dinner preceding reception to R.E.G.C.Wilson and suite, followed by entertainment, Inspection and Review. Past Commanders' Night Jan.30th. Malta in full form in the Spring by one of the New York constituent Commanderies.

Joseph Warren #26

Plans to have the officers exemplify the Mark Master's Degree in the Chapter in full Templar uniform.

Bristol #29

Commander's message is most inspiring - a great appeal to his members to attend the conclaves.

South Shore #31

Names of the Membership Committee are listed.

Trinity #32

A great tribute to the Sentinel and Armorer William Manson, who in addition to his numerous duties, is making everything "spic and span" in the Temple. He cleaned all the glass in the lockers, and is now painting the entire Armory - a good example to set to others.

Natick #33

A page full of Knightly thoughts in the "Commander's Message."

Gethsemane #35

Christmas Party December 28th. A list of the members of the Membership Committee is printed.

Cyprus #39

75th Anniversary November 19th. Catered dinner, entertainment, reception to R.E. G.C. Wilson and guests.

St. Paul #40

Blue Lodge and Chapter Night November 29; dinner, entertainment, Inspection and Review and Reception to R.E.G.C.Wilson and suite.

Cambridge #42

Past Commanders are assisting in the Order of the Temple on 5 candidates.

Temple #48

"Commander's Column" says Bring the Ladies! an enjoyable evening, catered dinner, the regular conclave night.

St. Andrew #49

Annual Feast of St. Andrew. The social highlight of the year. All Masons invited, dinner, address, entertainment.

Reading #50

Planning on candidates for February to have the officers of Gethsemane #35 put on the Red Cross in full form in the Reading Asylum.

Sir Galahad #52

York Rite Night Wednesday, November 16th.

Winthrop #53

Sir Knight Fred Cheeseman brought in 4 petitions.

Presiding Councils Club will meet Tuesday, December 6th, at 6:30 P.M. for dinner in the Hotel Puritan, Boston. R.E.G.C. Wilson, Jr., will tell his plans for the coming year. Council officers from all over the jurisdiction are urged to attend.

The annual meeting of Aleppo Temple Shrine is scheduled for Friday, January 27th.

VISITORS IN OUR ASYLUM

When you come to Commandery, have you an eye for the visitors? They are always there. They do not always feel disposed to make themselves known, to seek you out and introduce themselves. Indeed, they are not expected to do that. It is the duty of Sir Knights to introduce themselves to the visitors. We want our Commandery to be friendly and fraternal. It is a well-known fact that our Sir Knights are at heart friendly and that they have genuine goodwill toward others. But we want everybody else to know it. Regardless of the very best intentions, we sometimes take it for granted that others know that we are friendly and fraternal. Let us take no chances on that, but let us each make it his business to seek out the visitors and express to them a cordial welcome and an invitation to come again. Such courtesies as these make a vast difference in the impression other people will have of our Order in general and our Commandery in particular.

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The cost of everything has gone up, but happiness, smiles and kind words are as cheap as ever. All that you need is the right spirit - the right attitude toward your fellowman. Remember you cannot rise higher than your thoughts.

* * * *

There's no finer place to relieve the tenseness of our daily grind than in the happy confines of our Commanderies. All branches of our Rite should use their utmost endeavor to increase attendance and promote activity. The peace of mind which comes from understanding association with members of the Order is the needed tonic of the day.

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No Commandery shall appear in public unless clothed in the uniform prescribed by Grand Commandery except for Church attendance and funerals.

Naturally, we are all greatly interested in building the Templar Order numerically, but above all we are hoping for the day when there may be a greater individual interest in the stated conclaves as well as all other Templar activities. Many of the Commanders in their monthly notices appeal to the membership for a greater attendance at their stated Conclaves, which recalls a little incident that made quite an impression upon a certain Right Eminent Past Grand Commander which he cannot forget, and we quote:

"A few years ago, I visited in my old home town over the weekend, and on Sunday morning I attended Sunday School in one of its churches. The Men's Bible Class met in the Church proper under the balcony. I noticed one of the men who sat next to one of the supporting pillars of the balcony, took hold of the pillar and moved it back and forth, and immediately the thought came to my mind that that particular pillar no longer supported the weight which the architect had intended that it should support, and as a result the other pillars had to carry the extra weight and to a certain degree weakened the structure. Now in order that this particular pillar could again assume its proportionate support of the balcony, wedges had to be applied between the floor and base of pillar."

True to life, as we join the Church of Christ and a Christian body such as the Order of Knights Templar, each one of us becomes an integral part of the organization and we are expected to hold up a certain share of the organization and by neglecting to take an active part, not attending stated services or conclaves, we become as the pillar in that church and we no longer hold up our share of the respective organizations and thereby place an additional responsibility on those who are active and to a certain degree weaken the organization which is so much needed at present. Let us examine our Templar building and see how many pillars are not assuming their proportionate share of the wonderful opportunity to make our Commanderies outstanding and a spiritual support to the individual, the Commandery and the community at large. - Can we drive a wedge under the indifferent?

Cheer up! If somebody ridicules you, he is only trying to whittle you down to his size.

Non-uniformed knights may participate in church attendance and funerals.

The following Commanderies have had a net gain in membership of over 25% the past five years:

Reading #50	61.6%
Gethsemane #35	51.1%
Sutton #16	35.1%
Newburyport #3	33.6%
Athol #37	26.9%
Bethlehem #43	26.1%

* * * *

The following Commanderies have had a net loss the past five years:

Godfrey deBouillon #25	-13.9%
Woonsocket #24	-13.1%
St. Johns #1	-11.3%
St. Bernard #12	-8.5%
Calvary #13	-8.3%
Joseph Warren #26	-6.7%
Cambridge #42	-6.4%
Coeur de Lion #34	-6.1%
St. Paul #40	-5.5%
Jerusalem #19	-5.3%
Washington #4	-5.1%
Cyprus #39	-3.9%
Pilgrim #9	-3.6%
Holy Sepulchre #8	-1.9%
South Shore #31	-1.4%
Bristol #29	-.5%

* * * *

Results as between States

Year	Total Net Gain	Gains Mass.	Losses Rhode Island
1949	+173	+207	-34
1948	+190	+240	-50
1947	+156	+195	-39
1946	+298	+328	-30
1945	+132	+200	-68

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I need courage, when the best things fail me; calm and poise, when storms assail me; common sense, when things perplex me; a sense of humor, when they vex me; hope, when disappointment dampens me; wider vision, when life cramps me; kindness, when folks need it badly; readiness to help men gladly. And when effort seems in vain, WISDOM TO BEGIN AGAIN.

Masonry teaches that a man's life is not his own private and selfish possession to be employed merely for himself, but that it also belongs to the Brotherhood and to all mankind.

PETITIONS

COMMANDERIES	FIRST TWO MONTHS	NOV.
St. John's	4	-
Boston	11	4
Newburyport	4	1
Washington	-	-
Worcester County	12	4
Springfield	5	7
De Molay	16	-
Holy Sepulchre	-	-
Pilgrim	18	2
Palestine	-	-
Milford	4	-
St. Bernard	5	-
Calvary	3	5
Haverhill	4	-
Old Colony	-	-
Sutton	-	1
Bethany	3	-
Winslow Lewis	1	-
Jerusalem	1	-
Hugh de Payens	13	3
St. Omer	1	-
Berkshire	1	2
Conn. Valley	1	-
Woonsocket	-	-
God. de Bouillon	-	1
Joseph Warren	-	-
Narragansett	-	-
Bristol	2	1
Northampton	1	-
South S hore	-	-
Trinity	5	1
Natick	-	-
Coeur de Lion	-	-
Gethsemane	6	-
Olivet	-	-
Athol	-	-
Bay State	2	2
Cyprus	-	-
St. Paul	-	3
Beauseant	1	1
Cambridge	5	-
Bethlehem	-	1
Orange	1	-
Ivanhoe	-	-
Quincy	1	-
Temp le	2	-
St. Andrew	2	-
Reading	9	2
T.S. Webb	-	-
Sir Galahad	-	-
Winthrop	-	-
Total	144	41

ACCUMULATIVE

	1950	1949	1948	1947
Sept.	52	53	48	38
Oct.	144	128	129	94
Nov.	185	186	202	152
Dec.		276	264	223
Jan.		377	328	292
Feb.		477	405	390
Mar.		550	491	477
Apr.		672	565	548
May		727	676	605
June		773	705	656

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LEADERS

Pilgrim	20
Worcester	16
De Molay	16
Hugh de Payens	16
Boston	15

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Eminent Commanders:

Our Right Eminent Grand Commander has worked out an effective plan to build up our MEMBERSHIP. -The appointmen of a MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE to include a Sir Knight from each Chapter in your Commandery Jurisdiction, and a Sir Knight from each Blue Lodge and Council.

Have you appointed your own MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE?

Obtain from your MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE each month the Notices of the Councils, Chapters and Blue Lodges.

Request your MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE to get a list of candidates for the past three years.-see to it that your MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS attend the meetings of these "lower bodies" and be on the lookout continually for new prospects.

Courteously yours,

Frank H. Wilson, P.G.C.
Chairman